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Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your families. Here is hoping that 2021 will bring brighter times for us all. Without a doubt, this is a very testing time and so challenging for each one of us as we do all we can to keep ourselves and those close to us safe and at home where possible.

Following the announcement made last night, I am sure you are digesting the news of an extended school closure for the month of January. It is the news that none of us wanted, but we are here to help in every way we can. I am emailing you this morning with information about how we intend to move forward to support you and your child with learning in the coming weeks. Please note the following points:

- Our school uses the online learning platform Google Classroom, to provide remote learning to the children. You have engaged with this during the previous school closure and we have been using elements of it in all classes since September in an effort to be prepared for the scenario we are now faced with. Your child has their own G Suite account which you should be able to access from home but if you are having any problems with this, please email your child's class teacher and they will be able to help you out.
- Your child's class teacher will make contact over the weekend with information on how the remote learning will proceed for each class. Support teachers are also linked into the relevant Google Classrooms so they will also be able to interact with the pupils through this assigning work and leaving messages for the children. We hope that this will help keep the interpersonal relationships the staff have with the children alive during the school closure.
- We will do our best to provide the best remote learning program we can. I urge you this time, that if you are finding something challenging, if you are unhappy with something or something just isn't working for you in your household setting for whatever reason to please follow the sensible chain of command and let the teacher involved know as a first port of call. We can always work together to try to find a solution to any problems but if we don't know, we can't help.
- We are acutely aware that this can be a challenging time for you all with the daily struggle of perhaps working from home, coping with unwell and/or vulnerable family members and also then, this remote learning element coming from the school. We are also aware that for some, the concerns around the children's learning needs not being adequately met can be the bit that causes the most worry and this too is our concern as teachers. All we can do at this difficult moment is strive to strike a balance to meet all the needs we have in our households as best we can. So we urge you to only do what you can in terms of school work, please make sure though that the children know that we are here for them on Google Classroom and they can interact to the best of their abilities when they can.
- We are all available on email to you with any questions you might have so please don't hesitate to contact us. You should have the contact details for each teacher at this stage but just let me know if you don't and I can give it to you.
- In line with the recommendation from the Department of Education, regarding the collection of books from the school, we are in the process of organising a book collection to take place on Saturday. While some of the core textbooks were sent home on the day of the Christmas Holidays we now wish that the children will have access to the rest of their belongings while at home. Details of collection times etc. will be sent as soon as they are finalised with staff.

As always and never more so than now, the main priority is keeping everyone safe and minimizing the chance of any of us contracting this terrible virus.

I hope that you all keep safe and well. We will keep in touch with you as the days progress and look forward to seeing a positive improvement in the public health situation very soon.

Kind regards,

Michael Feeney

Principal.

